

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CARLOS DAGOBERTO RIVAS, ) Case No. SACV 16-0307-JVS (JPR)  
Petitioner, )  
v. ) ORDER ACCEPTING FINDINGS AND  
SHAWN HATTON, Warden, ) RECOMMENDATIONS OF U.S.  
Respondent. ) MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636, the Court has reviewed the Petition, all the records and files of this case, and the Report and Recommendation of U.S. Magistrate Judge.

19 On December 12, 2016, Petitioner filed objections to the  
20 R. & R., in which for the most part he simply repeats arguments  
21 in the Petition and Traverse. Only two objections warrant  
22 discussion. First, he repeats his claim that translation  
23 "discrepancies" in his interview transcripts rendered the state  
24 courts' denial of his Miranda claim "flawed and erroneously  
25 reached." (Objs. at 5-6; see also Pet., Attach. Mem. at 18 n.3  
26 (noting same transcript discrepancies).) Second, as to his  
27 consular-notification claim, Petitioner cites out-of-circuit  
28 authority purportedly demonstrating that some federal courts have

1 held that Article 36 of the Vienna Convention confers  
2 individually enforceable rights. (Objs. at 8-9.)

3 Both objections lack merit. The fact that the prosecution  
4 used English translations of Petitioner's interview transcripts  
5 at the Miranda hearing that were slightly different from those  
6 given to the jury at his trial two days later was well noted and  
7 explored by defense counsel. (See, e.g., Lodged Doc. 3 at 33-41  
8 & n.23 (citing both translations in detail but conceding that  
9 they were "identical in content" except for minor stylistic  
10 differences); Lodged Doc. 10 at 4 n.3 (noting same issue in  
11 petition for review, that "[t]he two sets of transcripts are not  
12 identical").) In his appellate brief, Petitioner expressly  
13 acknowledged that the different versions were essentially  
14 "identical in content":

15 Court Exhibit 2, which appears in the record (2  
16 CT 349-397), is identical in content (with a slight  
17 pagination difference) to People's Exhibit 6A (2 CT  
18 254-302), which was admitted into evidence at trial  
19 . . . . Court Exhibit 3, which also appears in the  
20 record (2 CT 398-443), is identical in content (with  
21 a different footer) to People's Exhibit 6B (2 CT 303-  
22 348), which was admitted into evidence at  
23 trial . . . .<sup>1</sup>

24 (See Lodged Doc. 3 at 33 n.23 (some record citations omitted).)

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26       <sup>1</sup> As Petitioner correctly noted, the transcripts admitted at  
27 the pretrial Miranda hearing were marked as court exhibits 2 and  
28 3, and the transcripts given to the jury at trial were marked as  
People's exhibits 6A and 6B. (See Objs. at 5.)

1       In any event, as the R. & R. makes clear, "[b]ecause Miranda  
2 involves a totality-of-circumstances inquiry," whether Petitioner  
3 knowingly and voluntarily waived his Miranda rights does not  
4 depend on any specific words or utterances in isolation (see R. &  
5 R. at 11, 27-30) – including, for example, whether he said "Uh-  
6 huh, yes, if [indecipherable] I can't say anything?" or "Uh-huh,  
7 yes, if [indecipherable] now I can't tell you anything?" in  
8 confirming his understanding of his right to remain silent (see  
9 Objs. at 5-6). (See also R. & R. at 30 (finding no law requiring  
10 suspect to "affirmatively indicate after each of the four  
11 warnings his understanding of it").)

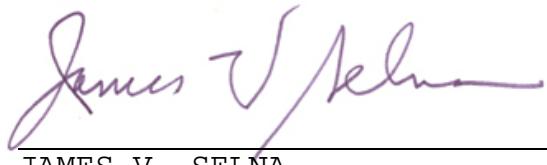
12       Further, the Magistrate Judge did not say that no court has  
13 ever held that Article 36 of the Vienna Convention confers  
14 individual rights; rather, she correctly noted that "the Supreme  
15 Court has never clearly established that the Vienna Convention  
16 creates judicially enforceable private rights," citing, among  
17 others, various Supreme Court cases in support. (See R. & R. at  
18 33-34.) Thus, because federal habeas review looks only to  
19 clearly established Supreme Court decisions for guidance,  
20 Petitioner's second objection has no merit.

21       Accordingly, having made a de novo determination of those  
22 portions of the Report and Recommendation to which objections  
23 have been made, the Court concurs with and accepts the Magistrate  
24 Judge's recommendation that the Petition be denied. IT THEREFORE

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1 IS ORDERED that Judgment be entered denying the Petition and  
2 dismissing this action with prejudice.

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5 DATED: January 9, 2017  
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JAMES V. SELNA  
U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE